DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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NO.: A-92 April 13, 1956

SUBJECT: National Bank of Libya

TO: The American Embassy, TRIPOLI

Reference is made to Joint Weeka No. 13 - Economic Section, March 31, 1956.

Item No. 1 of the above reports that in the ceremonies for the opening of the National Bank of Libya no mention was made of the fact that the Bank's entire capital was supplied by the Libyan-American Reconstruction Commission.

This omission is annoying and the excuse of Bank and Libyan Government officials that this was an "unfortunate oversight" seems weak. The omission not only violates the undertaking normally required of recipient governments when United States aid funds are furnished that appropriate publicity will be given within the country to the source of such aid, but is particularly hard to justify in light of the attention being focussed in Libya on the question of United States and other foreign offers of aid at this time.

The Department and ICA/W believe the matter is of enough importance to warrant further discussion of it by the Embassy with the Libyan Government in order that appropriate recognition may be given in the future to United States assistance to Libya.

In the event that the Embassy is satisfied that the omission was in fact unintentional, it may of course use its discretion in deciding whether an approach at this time to the Libyans on the question of appropriate public recognition for United States assistance would be fruitful.

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